

Inside EMA

Monthly Newsletter

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

November 2019

Message from the Director

The tragic attacks around the world highlight the critical need for all of us in the response community to remain vigilant and continue to refine our skills and plans so that we are well-prepared for all types of hazards, both natural and man-made. While from a homeland security perspective state and federal partners are working around the clock, as emergency managers it is important that we work to create resilient communities able to recover from any incident.

Collaboration is key to virtually everything we do in public safety. As we plan, train, exercise, respond and recover, it is critical that we collaborate with others in both the public and private sectors. Working together, we are able to better serve the people in our communities and this great state.

The perfect example of this, is taking place right now in communities along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. While the rains have ended and floodwaters have receded, the impact of this disaster will be felt for many months, even many years.

We are currently working with local emergency managers to identify ways to help the individuals who were affected in light of FEMA's denial of individual assistance. The state of Illinois has never had a disaster assistance program like those available through the federal government. However, we continue to look for ways to match the unmet needs with programs that exist within state and federal agencies.

If you are a homeowner or business owner who still struggles to recover from this historic event, please contact your local emergency management agency. If you are a business that can help those in need, I ask that you too contact your local emergency management agency to offer your services or time to those in need.



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Flood Relief Update

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved the State's request for a disaster declaration following one of the worst floods in Illinois history. The approved SBA disaster declaration makes low-interest loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses in Alexander, Jersey, Rock Island and Stephenson counties, as well as the contiguous counties of Jo Daviess, Winnebago, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, Henry, Mercer, Calhoun, Greene, Macoupin, Madison, Union and Pulaski.

SBA loans can help repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters can apply for loans to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and private non-profit organizations can apply for loans to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is January 13, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is August 14, 2020. Any individual or business needing additional information, or wishing to apply for a loan, should contact the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Thank You

On Friday, November 1, a ceremony was held to reorganize the leadership at FEMA's Joint Field Office in Illinois. The Federal Coordinating Officer assigned to Illinois, Nancy Casper, was being re-assigned to on-going efforts in Puerto Rico. At the ceremony, IEMA Deputy Director thanked FCO Casper, for her dedicated service and commitment to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the citizens of Illinois who were affected by the historic flood of 2019.

Thank you, Nancy!



The Power of GIS: Supporting Emergency Management

In November 2019, IEMA/DoIT GIS Specialist, Pam Brooks, represented the agency at a Public Safety Emergency Management GIS Panel at Western Illinois University. This event brought together a team of experts from throughout the state who teach, practice and research the issues associated with GIS as it relates to public safety and emergency management. This is a rapidly expanding practice in emergency management, and the proper collaboration allows for timely dissemination of disaster intelligence.



Helping Kids Cope with Disaster

The FEMA Coping with Disaster page provides information on how to manage the emotional effects of disasters and has specific guidance for helping kids cope with disasters. One area of focus is techniques for recognizing risk factors. These factors are:



- Direct exposure to the disaster, such as evacuating, observing injuries or death in others, or personally experiencing physical or emotional trauma;
- Loss/grief caused by the death or serious injury of family or friends; and

Ongoing stress from the secondary effects of disaster, such as temporarily living elsewhere, loss of friends and social networks, loss of personal property, parental unemployment, and costs incurred during recovery to return the family to pre-disaster life and living conditions.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Offers Guidance for Helping Children Cope with Disasters

The AAP is preparing pediatricians—and all adults in positions that support children—to help children psychologically cope with crises and disasters. The AAP provides information on the following topics: the importance of basic services and timely triage and referral; psychological first aid; helping children understand and adjust to loss; supporting pediatricians; and much more.

Coping After Disasters Activity Book

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers an activity book, "Coping After a Disaster," for parents and educators to use to better communicate with children about coping mechanisms in the wake of a disaster. The CDC encourages adults to use this activity book in schools, communities, and within families to help children talk about their feelings after a disaster and to learn positive ways to express their emotions in uncertain times.



The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is presenting a G318 workshop for local government officials, community planners, EMA directors, and other entities involved in the development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. There are no prerequisites for this FREE workshop; however, space is limited. Additionally, the American Planners Association will provide 12 AICP CM credits to certified planners for completing the workshop.

Mitigation Planning Workshop

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (IEMA) AND FEDERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ARE OFFERING:

G-318: LOCAL MITIGATION PLANNING WORKSHOP



APPROVED FOR
12 AICP CM
CREDITS

THE DETAILS

DATE/TIME

12/12/2019 – 12/13/2019
8:00am – 4:30pm

LOCATION

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport
100 Aviation Drive
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
Jefferson County

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Glenn Smith
(217) 785-6984
glenn.a.smith@illinois.gov

This Course is FREE!

WHAT TO EXPECT

The goal of this 2-day workshop is to provide plan developers with the information necessary to prepare and implement a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Upon successful completion, participants will be able to:

- (1) Define hazard mitigation and identify the benefits of mitigation planning,
- (2) Develop or update a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and
- (3) Identify resources and guidance available for mitigation planning and plan implementation.

Who should attend: Local government officials, community planners, and others who are involved in the development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan are ideal attendees for this workshop. There are no prerequisites for this workshop. EMI course credit will not be provided. Attendees must register.

REGISTERHERE:

<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>



FEMA

IEMA



IEMA's Community Giving Initiative

Toys for Tots

This organization collects new, unwrapped toys and distributes them as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. The organization serves children of all ages, including high school aged kids.

The James Project

This organization provides homes and support for fostering families in Sangamon County. They serve hundreds of foster families each year by distributing clothes, beds, and other necessities to newly placed foster children.

Animal Protective League

For over 60 years, the Animal Protective League has been the voice for animals in Springfield and Sangamon County. APL operates a limited admission animal shelter and a high-volume, low-cost spay/neuter clinic along with comprehensive animal-welfare programs. APL is a private, not-for-profit organization.



COMINGS & GOINGS

at IEMA

RETIREMENT

- **Gibb Vinson**, NS Health Physicist II, DNS
- **Cliff Thompson**, NS Engineer II, DNS
- **Darryl Dragoo**, SPSA, OPS

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

- **Cliff Thompson**, NS Engineer II, DNS
- **Gibb Vinson**, NS Health Physicist II, DNS

PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

- **Scott Crumly**, IT

December 2019 Training Schedule

MGT 318: Public Info in an All-Hazards Situation

December 10 -11

John A. Logan College, Caterville

ICS 400: Advance ICS

December 10

Dairen Woodridge Fire Protection District, Darien

G318: Local Mitigation Planning Workshop

December 12-13

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, Mt. Vernon

AWR 147: Rail Car Incident Response

December 12

South Holland Community Center, South Holland

AWR 331: Winter Weather Hazards Science and Preparedness

December 18

DuPage County EOC, Wheaton

G775: EOC Management and Operations

December 19-20

Signal Hill Fire Department, Belleville



Holiday Travel



When traveling over the river and through the woods, whether by car, train or plane, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Illinois State Police want you to utilize smart travel tips to help you reach your destination.

Before setting out on a trip, check the latest weather conditions along your travel route and make sure tires, wipers, and lights are in good condition. Start your trip with a full tank of gas, provide your itinerary to a friend, relative or co-worker, and if possible, travel during daylight hours on main roads. While on the road, be prepared to turn back and seek shelter if conditions become threatening. Keep windows clear of snow and ice and adjust speed for road conditions.

“Preparedness is the key component to surviving any emergency or disaster,” said Acting IEMA Director, Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “Whether its winter travel or severe weather preparedness, just a few minutes of preparation today can keep you and your family safe, all year-round.”

Now is also the time to equip your car with a winter car survival kit stocked with items that can keep you safe and warm if you should become stranded alongside a road. A car survival kit should include the following:

- Cell phone and charger
- First aid kit
- Water and high-calorie, non-perishable food
- Blanket
- Boots, hats, gloves and extra clothing to keep dry
- Crank radio and flashlight

- Sack of sand or cat litter
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit and tow rope
- Booster cables
- Compass and road maps

As of November 2019, the state police have issued nearly 6,000 Move Over citations, over 6,400 driving under the influence citations and 10,600 distracted driving citations.

As travelers prepare for the holiday, the Illinois State Police urge motorists to buckle up, put down your phone and move over for emergency vehicles.

“Thanksgiving should be a time of togetherness to create lasting, happy memories. During the holiday weekend as families travel to be together, the Illinois State Police (ISP) will increase patrols in order to make the roadways safer for you and your loved ones,” ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly said. “This year alone, the ISP family has suffered the loss of four Troopers--the most in ISP history. Three of these tragedies were the direct result of either impaired driving, disobeying the ‘Move Over’ laws, or a combination of the two. And no one should suffer the tragedy of unnecessary and preventable loss, especially during the holidays,” he concluded.

If traveling by plane for the holidays, be sure to review the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) security screening tips. When packing for your flights, consider a small emergency kit that includes a flashlight and spare USB power bank.

Additional information on emergency preparedness is available on the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

Holiday Travel

With the holiday season in full swing, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is offering tips to help people stay safe now and into the new year. From decorating the tree to traveling to grandma's house with a sleigh full of new toys, be sure to take simple steps to keep your family safe.

Holiday Decorating

Whether decorating for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or New Year's Eve, candles and strings of colored lights create a festive atmosphere but it's important to be careful when using them. Candles should never be left unattended, and placed far away from flammable materials. Candles should also be placed on stable furniture in fire-safe holders that will catch dripping wax. Holiday lights and electrical decorations should bear the name of an independent testing lab to prove they were safety tested.

Winter Heating

While the stockings are hung by the chimney with care, be sure that your fireplace is ready for the winter heating season. Chimneys, fireplaces and wood and coal stoves should be regularly inspected and cleaned when necessary. Additionally, furnaces should be checked every year by professionals to ensure mechanical parts are functioning properly and that nothing is blocking the flue. Malfunctioning furnaces increase both the fire and carbon monoxide risks.

Under Illinois law, homes should be equipped with working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within 15 feet of each sleeping area. The detectors

should be tested monthly to ensure they're functioning and the batteries are still good. Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home or attached garage because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Holiday Shopping Safety

Whether shopping online or in the store, be sure to utilize smart shopping techniques this holiday season. If shopping online, connect with care. Make sure your home wireless network is password protected, and set strong passwords that make it hard for cyber criminals to guess. Also, remember the old adage, if it's too good to be true, it probably is. During the holidays, scammers may send fake emails requiring you to click a link for a special offer. Shop online through trusted retailers to avoid these scams, and do not click on links from unknown senders.



Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:
<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.



State of Illinois
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

For more information on this newsletter, contact:

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